

Sacramento River Conservation Area  
Board of Directors  
Minutes

March 28, 2002  
4:00 p.m.

Los Molinos Masonic Hall  
Los Molinos, Ca

County	Public Interest	Landowner	Agency
Butte	Jane Dolan	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	(David Womble)	Ben Carter	
Glenn	Denny Bungarz	Don Anderson	
Shasta	Patricia Clarke, Alt.(Glenn Hawes)	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	Dan Silva	(Russell Young)	
Tehama	Bill Borrer	Curt Martin, Alt. (Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	(Lynnel Pollock)	(Marc Faye)	
Resources Agency			Mel Dodgin
Cal DWR		(Dwight Russell)	Stein Buer, Alt.
Cal DFG		(Diana Jacobs)	Paul Ward, Alt.
State Reclamation Board			(Pete Rabbon)
USF&WS			Marie Sullivan
US COE			(Mark Charlton)
Bureau of Reclamation			Laura Allen

Names listed in parentheses represent absences

Also present an estimated audience of 15 persons

Cal DWR

Stacy Cepello

Manager Burt Bundy

Assistant Pat Brown, Recording Secretary

1. **Public Participation, Unscheduled Matters:** Denny Bungarz noted the President's budget reflects a \$45 mil reduction in PILT payment. RCRC has written a letter to Senator Feinstein requesting her signature on a PILT appropriation letter. The Board gave approval to Denny to draft a letter also seeking support. Bill Borrer noted the Sacramento River Watershed Program is scheduling monthly meetings at various locations in the watershed; Bob Foster will service as Chair and Anjanette Martin as Vice Chair. Les Heringer, M&T, updated the group on the pumping plant situation. They have applied for a CALFED grant to fund a long -term study on the gravel bar intrusion. Les also indicated there was an article in the paper concerning protecting infrastructure along the river and limiting meander where appropriate. Limited meander, and permit streamlining are both extremely important issues. Les noted Sandy Dunn would be happy to sit down with this group to discuss as she helped him work through the permit process and would be an excellent resource.
2. **Consent Calendar** - Denny Bungarz moved, seconded by Don Anderson to adopt the February 28, 2002 minutes. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

### 3. Board Committee Reports -

- **Executive Committee** – Chair Ben Carter noted the Committee discussed the possibility of a name change for the organization that would better reflect the role of the SRCA, some suggestions were offered and will be discussed under agenda item #5. The amendment process was also discussed and the possibilities of increased staffing to expedite the Handbook changes; the SRCA staff will explore the possibility of additional help.
- **Landowner Assurances Committee** – The Committee met on February 21st and had good attendance and discussion. The Good Neighbor Policy Draft, Rev. 6, is out for review. The next meeting will be May 21st to allow time for feedback from the agencies.
- **PILT/Econ** – Denny discussed the March 7th meeting and noted there has been good representation by both Congressman Ose and Herger. PILT has been the main focus of the Committee but there is a need to look at third party impacts and he will try to stress that as well. The next meeting will be Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Common Ground in Willows.

Casey Walsh, CDFA, informed the group about a recent CALFED meeting where there was discussion on a project currently underway to create a database on conservation easements. This information was requested by Secretary Mary Nichols, Resources Agency, and Secretary Bill Lyons, Department of Food and Agriculture.

- **Outreach** – The Outreach Committee has waited for Board action involving the possible amendments to the Handbook and name change of the organization before moving forward. The Chair is in the process of setting up a meeting; Marie Sullivan announced John Thomson will be the Outreach Committee representative in her place.
- **TAC** - Stacy reviewed the March 21st TAC meeting. He noted the draft is out on the Woodson Bridge to Keswick study done by DWR for the Comprehensive Study. Anjanette had updated the TAC on the Sacramento Valley Management Agreement. Mike Madden, Butte County, discussed the massive public use on the river on certain holidays and the resulting impacts to resources such as law enforcement, rescue, fire, and waste disposal for both Glenn and Butte counties. The question was raised as to what, if any, part the SRCA could play. Stacy noted that one function for DWR will be to provide updated mapping. Denny will follow up to see what is needed, and if there is a role for the SCRA and that it is within the organization's charter. Stacy provided an example of the proposed website; the locations being used are those indicated in the proposals. When the website is available, it will link back to the CALFED website; those recommended for funding will be marked. Within a week or so he will have a link made available; the project review format that was adopted will be the base for new projects. The TAC discussed the Handbook and its inaccessibility for changes, that it needed to be changed to a word processing format. The TAC suggested requesting the Board ok conversion of the Handbook to a Word document and fore-go hard copies until all changes have been completed. A question was asked about the method that will be used to show revisions, some suggestions were offered; it was determined the SRCA staff will look at the best way to reflect the changes. Tom Evans, FWA, commented that there was a need to leave the old book in its entirety on the web. Stacy moved to

discussion of data that reflected changes brought about by the most recent amendments regarding acres in the Inner River Zones: Reach 1- 11,000 acres; Reach 2- 18,800 acres; Reach 3 – 13,904 acres; Reach 4 - 4,707 acres. The TAC also discussed the question of what projects to track and concluded it is complicated to work through and will take time. They will work closely with the Board to make sure the Board's intent is implemented. Denny noted the reason for the amendment to the motion was to cover those projects that "affect" the river. Paul Ward noted the problem of defining an area for tracking without re-drawing the line.

4. **Handbook Amendment** – Denny Bungarz moved that the Board instruct the SRCA staff to notify the Advisory Council and MOA signatories of the intent to change the Handbook, without the exact verbiage, to accept the TAC review, and to set a date for the amendment review. Patricia Clarke seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote. The June 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting was set for amendment review. Burt noted there was discussion at the Executive Committee about establishing a working group to review the revised language rather than making it a function of the TAC; volunteers were asked to contact him.
5. **Discussion & direction on possible name change for the nonprofit organization** – The suggestion of a name change had been made to better describe the role of the organization. Some suggestions brought forward from the Executive Committee were Sacramento River Coordinating Council, Sacramento River Coordinating Forum, and Sacramento River Forum. Denny suggested SB1086 somehow stay connected in the title or underneath. There was concern that a name change might be more confusing to people than helpful. Some felt the issue was the word “area” in the name, that it gave the wrong connotation and did not accurately reflect the coordinating role. Denny Bungarz moved, seconded by Dan Silva, that the name be changed to the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum. Motion passed by unanimous vote.
6. **Manager's Report** - Burt Bundy, Manager, discussed the March 26<sup>th</sup> Working Group meeting in Hamilton City, IP process not moving forward due to lack of funding. A question was raised about the availability of maps for the locally preferred levee location in - referred to HCCSD- electronic versions also available. CALFED Working Landscapes Work Group – The Department of Food & Agriculture hosted a discussion to look at concerns about efforts to improving habitat on private lands. The restoration of wildlife conservation property near Moulton Weir has begun. The SRCA will assist in encouraging and facilitating local input for the Public Use and Recreation Strategy to be developed by TNC. CALTRANS has acquired property between Los Molinos and Vina as mitigation for bridge work on the highway. Burt informed the group he had attended a landowners meeting earlier in the day in Tehama County, held to discuss landowner concerns.
7. **Agency Reports**– Laura Allen, Bureau of Reclamation, commented she had been assigned to North of Delta Storage Improvement because of her association with the SRCA. Casey Walsh asked if the CFDA needs to appoint someone to the Advisory Council now that they have signed the MOA; SRCA staff will draft a letter asking for

that appointment with a cc to Steve Shafer.

Sam Lawson, TNC, announced that the modeling to analyze cumulative impacts of all restoration projects from River Mile 194 to 202 is available on the TNC website @ TNC.org.ca; the run looking at effects of the stakeholders preferred alternative is still in draft form. They will also look at potential benefits and/or detriments to taking out surplus levees on the Pine Creek unit.

Sam gave an overview of four projects that had also been discussed at the TAC:

Altube - Will manage walnuts until long term management plan is in place then walnuts will be removed. Remainder of the property is more viable for orchard - purchasing the most flood prone, least productive. The property is currently zoned agricultural and there is no requirement to re-zone.

Singh, - RM194 in Butte County. Consists of 40 acres that are currently in walnuts; it will eventually be transferred to State Parks. Upstream development in Chico has impacted their farming operations causing longer inundations - not feasible to continue to farm.

Shahi - RM 181 in Glenn County. Located in levee systems, 20 acres in almonds. Plan to cultivate the almonds as long as productive and manage for bank swallows habitat.

Boeger- Rm 148. Property consists of 129 acres 55 acres in walnuts, 74 riparian habitat and gravel bar; escrow will close next week. The walnut orchard is close to the end of productivity- will keep in production for another year or two. Will be restored to riparian community.

Tom Evans commented that the cumulative impacts need to be examined; that is one of the biggest weaknesses in the process. Ben noted that is what the grant requested by TNC/SRCA is looking at in the Colusa subreach. Sam noted this area was probably savannah, more open and less rough than orchard condition, restoration plan will likely result in lower roughness.

Due to time constraints, the Ayers Two Dimensional Hydraulic Modeling Report for the Hamilton City area will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Denny suggested moving agency reports up in the agenda, under the consent calendar.

Agency reporting is what the organization is here for and having it at the end has not allowed sufficient time for the reports. It was also suggested that a hard copy be made available for the Board members, using the project review form as a base.

8. **Next meeting** - April 25th, 2002, 4:00 p.m., Location TBD.